

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **2605**

03/08/2016 Authored by Sundin

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; providing for reimbursement of costs associated
1.3 with beaver damage; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 97B.655,
1.4 subdivision 2; 97B.665, subdivision 2; 97B.667, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.655, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 2. **Special permit for taking protected wild animals.** The commissioner
1.8 may issue special permits under section 97A.401, subdivision 5, to take protected wild
1.9 animals that are damaging property or to remove or destroy their dens, nests, houses, or
1.10 dams. Costs associated with taking beaver that are damaging property or with removing
1.11 or destroying beaver lodges or dams are reimbursable according to section 97B.667,
1.12 subdivision 5, if incurred under a special permit issued under this subdivision.

1.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.665, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.14 Subd. 2. **Petition to district court.** If a beaver dam causes a threat to personal
1.15 safety or a serious threat to damage property, a person may petition the district court for
1.16 relief. The court may order the owners of private property where beaver dams are located
1.17 to take action to reduce the threat. A permit is not required for an action ordered by the
1.18 court. The action may include destruction or alteration of beaver dams and removal of
1.19 beaver. This subdivision does not apply to state parks, state game refuges, and federal
1.20 game refuges. Costs incurred for actions ordered by the court under this subdivision are
1.21 reimbursable according to section 97B.667, subdivision 5.

2.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.667, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.2 to read:

2.3 Subd. 5. **Cost reimbursement.** (a) A person may submit to the commissioner for
2.4 reimbursement receipts for costs incurred for beaver control methods authorized under
2.5 this section or section 97B.655, subdivision 2, or 97B.665, subdivision 2. Costs eligible
2.6 for reimbursement include costs for:

2.7 (1) taking beaver;

2.8 (2) removing, altering, or destroying a beaver lodge or dam;

2.9 (3) repairing damage to property caused by beaver;

2.10 (4) removing impairments caused by beaver when the impairments interfere with
2.11 public drainage systems or threaten to damage public property; or

2.12 (5) arranging for or contracting with a third party to perform an action under clauses
2.13 (1) to (4).

2.14 (b) A person must submit receipts for reimbursement during the state fiscal year that
2.15 the costs were incurred. The commissioner must reimburse eligible costs evidenced by
2.16 valid receipts submitted under paragraph (a) within 45 days of receiving the request for
2.17 reimbursement. The commissioner must use money from the base budget of the Division
2.18 of Fish and Wildlife. No money is appropriated to fund reimbursements according to
2.19 this subdivision.

2.20 (c) The commissioner may reduce the amount requested for reimbursement by the
2.21 amount of any grant received by the requester under section 103F.950.